

Council Member Mike Sullivan's Newsletter

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Council Member
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Residents of District E,

The city's fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th. That means we are approaching the end of our current fiscal year. The picture is just as dire as it has been for the last several months, and our budget deficit is projected to be \$142 million.

As we begin building our budget for the next fiscal year, we will have to make severe cuts in areas that have escaped financial scrutiny in the past. Having to justify expenses and projects now is necessary, even though it is a departure from previous budgets. As a fiscal conservative, and someone on council who always fights for taxpayers, this budget deficit is somewhat welcome in that it will now force the city to truly analyze and prioritize its expenditures. This is long overdue.

I will be offering a number of budget reduction ideas to Mayor Parker. They will include hiring freezes, reduction in and delay of pay raises, elimination of some functions within certain city departments, reduction of expenses for things like copying services, outside management consultants, etc. My budget reduction ideas are realistic, attainable and will result in the city saving money. It will be up to Mayor Parker whether or not to accept them, but I promise to formally propose them and to fight for them.

Lastly, be mindful that the city's water rate increase takes effect on June 1st. I voted against this rate increase, as I viewed it as punitive and unfair. Residential customers have no where else to purchase their water and the city is holding them hostage with these new rates. I also believe that the city is violating Prop 2, which restricts increases to the sum of population growth and inflation, which is nowhere near the 30% that the city council and mayor approved. Just remember that I strongly opposed the rate hike and voted against it.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Mike Sullivan
Council Member

Meeting with Congressman Ted Poe

During a recent visit to Washington, D.C., Council Member Sullivan met with Congressman Ted Poe from the 2nd Congressional District of Texas. Council Member Sullivan and Congressman Poe discussed district issues as they both represent the same constituents that lie within the City of Houston limits. Council Member Sullivan and his staff have a positive working relationship with the Congressman and his office and are proud to work together on issues relating to the area.



Council Member Sullivan and Congressman Ted Poe in the Rayburn Room

HFD Fire and Rescue Boat Launch



Albert Myres of the Gulf Coast Ike Relief Fund, HFD Rescue Chief Robert Branch, HFD Acting Chief Rick Glanagan, FFFH Board Member George Ebelt and Council Member Sullivan

Council Member Sullivan joined the Houston Fire Department, the Fire Fighters Foundation of Houston and The Gulf Coast Ike Relief Fund to introduce the new rapid response boat that will be used by HFD Station 65. Station 65 has an engine, medic unit, booster and evacuation board. Located on FM 1960 East, the station serves the City of Houston areas along Lake Houston as well as the Huffman area. The boat will be used primarily to respond to fires on the lake and for boating accidents and water rescues. Council Member Sullivan believes the boat will also allow HFD to carry rescue and medical equipment more safely to those who live on and around Lake Houston.

Donations from the Fire Fighters Foundation of Houston and the Gulf Coast Ike Relief made the boat purchase possible.

Community Meeting at Summer Creek High School

Council Member Sullivan spoke to members of the Fall Creek and Summerwood communities at their meeting last month. Members of these communities meet to discuss important issues and to strengthen community relations as the area grows. During the meeting, Council Member Sullivan gave district wide updates, and specifically announced that the Kingwood Substation will be assigned three more permanent officers this summer. This will allow greater safety for the area as the department will be able to place an officer in the Summerwood area at all times.



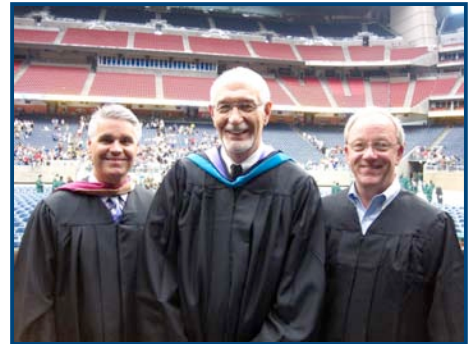
Lake Houston YMCA Ribbon Cutting

On May 13th the Lake Houston YMCA reopened its doors and celebrated their grand reopening with a ceremony hosted by the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce. The Lake Houston community was invited to tour the newly expanded and renovated facility and learn about the new amenities the YMCA has to offer. This YMCA serves the Kingwood, Atascosita and Huffman communities. Council Member Sullivan participated in the event and presented the YMCA with a certificate of recognition for all they do for the Kingwood and Humble communities.

Kingwood Park High School Graduation

On May 30, 2010, Council Member Sullivan attended Kingwood Park High School's graduation ceremony at Reliant Stadium. As a former Humble Independent School District school board member, Council Member Sullivan participated in the commencement ceremony by congratulating the students as they walked across the stage. This was the first graduating class since Kingwood Park High School opened its doors in 2007.

Council Member Sullivan wishes all the Kingwood Park High School seniors good luck and much success in their future endeavors.



Humble ISD Board of Trustees member, Dan Huberty, KPHS Principal Larry Cooper and Council Member Sullivan

Project Updates

- Designs are underway for a new community center, which will be located at the old library site. The demolition contract was awarded on May 12, 2010. The contractor has been given 30 days to raze building and clean up the site.
- Widening of Northpark is under design. Construction is scheduled to begin in September 2010.
- Three new Houston Police Department officers have been added to the Kingwood substation effective May 31st, of which, one will be a bike officer.
- Intersection improvements at Woodland Hills and North Park Drive are close to completion. Improvements at West Lake Houston and Kingwood Drive will begin June 7th.

Town Hall Meeting



Council Member Sullivan recognizes Officer Randy Derr for his 30 plus years of service with the Houston Police Department.

On May 11th Council Member Sullivan hosted a town hall meeting for his South Belt-Ellington constituents. A variety of topics were discussed including NASA/JSC funding issues, the new compostable bag ordinance, prohibited yard parking, BARC's leash laws and updates on Law Park and Sylvan Rodriguez Park. Council Member Sullivan thanks San Jacinto College – South Campus for the use of their facilities and to the city departments who attended.

Prior to the town hall meeting, Council Member Sullivan and his staff ate dinner at Houston Fire Department Station 94. The District E office thanks the D-shift for the meal and their hospitality.

Flooding and Drainage Town Hall Meeting

Council Member Sullivan wants to remind South Belt-Ellington residents that he will be hosting a regional flooding and drainage town hall meeting on July 14th at San Jacinto College - South Campus in the Marie Flickinger Building. Representatives from the City of Houston's Public Works Department, Harris County Flood Control and the Corps of Engineers will be attending.

Council Member Sullivan will open the floor for audience members to voice their questions and concerns. The meeting will start promptly at 6:30 pm and end at 8:00 pm.

For more information, please contact Council Member Sullivan's office at 832.393.3008.

Garfield Elementary Career Day

Council Member Sullivan had the opportunity to speak to over 100 fourth grade students at Garfield Elementary's annual career day on May 7th. He spoke about his duties as a City of Houston council member, his relationship with the Mayor and the steps needed to be taken in order to succeed in life. During his presentation, Council Member Sullivan also answered many questions the students posed.

As a former school board member, Council Member Sullivan stresses the importance of education and motivation in order to succeed in life. He thanks Garfield Elementary's school counselor Lisa Rogers for inviting him to participate this year.



Council Member Sullivan speaks to Garfield Elementary students.

Project Updates

- Sagemont Community Center design work is underway.
- Outdoor lighting for Law Park has been approved and installation will begin Summer 2010.
- The new 12,000 square foot and LEED Silver certified J.S. Bracewell Library is open.
- Monroe Road improvements are complete, and open all the way to Beltway 8.
- The expansion of METRO's South Point Park and Ride lot is complete. Total parking capacity has nearly doubled and has increased to a capacity of 766.

CCISD Education Foundation Fashion Show

Clear Creek Independent School District hosted their fourth annual Galaxy of Stars Fashion Show on May 16th. The yearly event is held to raise money for CCISD's Education Foundation, which was established to generate and distribute funds for the advancement of education. Council Member Sullivan attended the event in support of the CCISD students, staff and community that makes this event a success every year.

For more information about CCISD's Education Foundation please visit www.clearcreekeducationfoundation.org.

Citizen's for Space Exploration Trip



Council Member Sullivan and Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce President Cindy Harreld

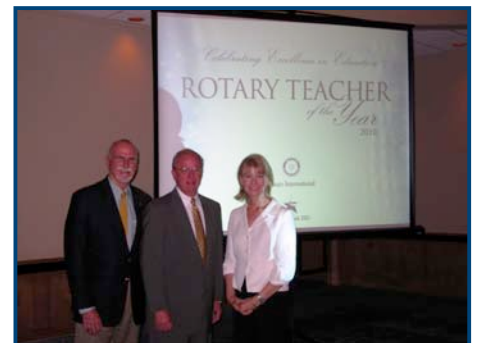
Last month the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership made their 19th annual Citizens for Space Exploration trip to Washington D.C. to fight for funding for NASA and more importantly this year, for human space exploration. Over 150 travelers visited nearly 365 Congressional offices from 29 states. This is the third time Council Member Sullivan traveled with the CSE group. As directed by Mayor Parker, Council Member Sullivan has been charged to lead the efforts on behalf of the City of Houston.

Council Member Sullivan thanks BAHEP President, Bob Mitchell for organizing another successful trip this year.

CCISD Teacher of the Year Luncheon

On May 25th, teachers from the Clear Creek Independent School district were publicly recognized by for their impact they have on the district's future leaders during a luncheon hosted by Rotary International and CCISD. Over 40 teachers were recognized, and Karen Hearn from Landolt Elementary and Erika Bondy from Creekside intermediate accepted CCISD's Teachers of the Year award. Council Member Sullivan attended the luncheon and presented each teacher with a certificate of recognition for their outstanding efforts and for the impact they have on District E.

Rotary clubs from Space Center, League City and Seabrook sponsored and participated in this year's event.



Space Center Rotary member, Council Member Sullivan and Sheryl Berg

Moon Rock and Bay Area Blvd. Interview



Council Member Sullivan discusses the traffic studies that have been conducted at the intersection.

On May 6th, Council Member Sullivan interviewed with KTRK's Kevin Quinn regarding the safety of the Moon Rock Drive and Bay Area Boulevard intersection in Clear Lake. Due to concerns from the local businesses in the area, three traffic studies have been conducted at the intersection, which conclude that a traffic light is not warranted due to low traffic volumes on Moon Rock Dr. The City of Houston's Public Works Department has been in communication with the local businesses and residents and has offered other possible solutions.

To view the story, please visit [KTRK's website](#).

Ellington Field Recycling Center

Clear Lake and South Belt residents have taken advantage of having a recycling facility in their backyards. In FY10, the community recycled 705 tons of material including paper, cardboard, glass and commingled items. Located in the Ellington Field area, the permanent drop off facility is easily accessible to District E residents, and is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Council Member Sullivan encourages residents to continue to utilize this facility.

For more information please call Council Member Sullivan's office at 832.393.3008 or visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste.

Super Neighborhood 81

The Clear Lake community has formed a Super Neighborhood Council officially recognized by the City of Houston. Super Neighborhoods act to represent the interests of the Clear Lake area and encourage residents of the communities and local businesses to work together to identify, prioritize and address the needs and concerns of the broader community. The council meets to discuss issues and projects that directly impact the community and form a Super Neighborhood Action Plan to prepare for improvements.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, June 10th at 6:30 p.m. at the Clear Lake City Community Association located at 16511 Diana Lane.

For more information please visit the City of Houston's Planning Department's website at www.houstontx.gov/planning. If interested in joining the council, please contact Donald Perkins at 713.837.7803.

Project Updates

- Updates to Sylvan Rodriguez Park are currently in the programming phase. Phase one of \$1 million worth of improvements are scheduled to begin fiscal year 2012.
- \$250,000 in overtime has been designated for use by HPD Clear Lake substation.
- Ellington Airport has almost \$50 million dollars in military construction projects now underway.
- Street sweeping on major thoroughfares in the Clear Lake area are scheduled to begin the first week of June. It will take two to three weeks to complete.

Hurricane Preparedness Town Hall Meeting

Council Member Sullivan would like to remind his constituents of a Hurricane Preparedness Town Hall Meeting he is hosting on June 8th. The meeting will be held at University of Houston – Clear Lake and will begin promptly at 6:30 pm and end at 8:00 pm. Representatives from the City of Houston's Office of Emergency Management, Harris County and United Way will be available to give information regarding this year's hurricane season and to answer any questions attendees may have.

For more information please contact Council Member Sullivan's office at 832.393.3008.



Congressman Pete Olson's State of NASA Address



Council Member Sullivan and Phillip Ivey from KBR

On May 3rd, Council Member Sullivan joined other area elected officials and community leaders at the Greater Houston Partnership as Congressman Pete Olson gave his state of NASA address. Congressman Olson spoke about President Obama's recently proposed budget, which cuts funding for manned human space flight and specifically the Constellation Program. He also spoke about what Houstonians and Americans can do in order to save the program such as contacting their representatives and visiting the GoBoldlyNASA website at www.GoBoldlyNASA.org.

As NASA/JSC lies within District E, Mayor Annise Parker has charged Council Member Sullivan, on the behalf of the City of Houston, in leading efforts to fight for the mission of NASA.

Mayor's Literacy Leadership Award Breakfast

Council Member Sullivan attended this year's Mayor's Literacy Leadership Award Breakfast on May 4th honoring Mr. Hershel Rich. Mr. Rich is one of the founders of Houston READ Commission and was the first President of the nonprofit organization, which supports adult literacy services in Houston. Mr. Rich received the 2010 Mayor's Literacy Leadership Award for his tireless efforts and persistence in creating a 100% literate Houston.

Brent Engelage, a District E resident and Humble Independent School District Board of Trustees member, was appointed to the READ board in April of this year.

National Day of Prayer

Council Member Sullivan had the privilege and honor to be part of the National Day of Prayer ceremony on May 6th on the steps of City Hall. Grace Community Church, which lies in District E, sponsored the 59th annual day of observance. Council Member Sullivan gave remarks among other community and church leaders including Grace Community Church Pastor Steve Riggle as well as Texas Governor Ricky Perry.

Following the ceremony, Council Member Sullivan joined Pastor Riggle and the Greater Houston Area Pastors Council at a luncheon with Governor Perry. The luncheon was held at the Houston Club with over 30 pastors in attendance.



HPD Chaplain Monty Montgomery, Texas Governor Rick Perry and Council Member Sullivan

Sam Houston Monument Dedication



Houston Arts Alliance and Houston Arts Foundation hosted the 14th annual Adopt A Monument ceremony at the base of the Sam Houston sculpture in Hermann Park. The Sam Houston Monument was adopted by the fifth grade class of Bunker Hill Elementary School in 1997. Every year since, the school's fifth graders have conducted fundraising activities to contribute to the care and conservation of this historic Houston monument. This year, the students conducted a raffle, which raised \$1,707.25. Amegy Bank partnered with the school in 2006, and matches the funds raised by the students each year. Since 1997, Bunker Hill Elementary School fifth graders have contributed more than \$75,000 to the Houston Arts Foundation specifically for the adopted Sam Houston monument.

Police Week Events

2010's National Police Week was kicked off on May 7th with a memorial reception and candlelight vigil at the Houston Police Department's memorial monument. The ceremony recognized those active officers who have selflessly dedicated their lives in the line of duty in Houston and across the country. A candlelight vigil was held and included the placing of a wreath on the HPD Officer's memorial, a roll call in honor of the deceased officers, a 21-gun salute and a fly over by HPD helicopters. This year, Officer Henry Canales was honored during the ceremony. His badge was officially retired while his colleagues and family observed.

Council Member Sullivan is a steadfast and strong supporter of the Houston Police Department and attended the ceremony in honor of the fallen officers, the active officers and all of their families that share them with the city.

Later in the week, Council Member Sullivan joined Mayor Annise Parker, HPD Chief Charles A. McLelland, Jr. and officers from the Houston Police Department to recognize those outstanding officers that serve the city during this year's Police Week Awards Ceremony. The luncheon, held at the Downtown Aquarium, featured a reading of the Mayor's Proclamation and the presentation of awards to over 80 officers for their outstanding work.

The Houston Police Officers Union also held a ceremony the same week for the surviving families of those officers who have been killed in the line of duty. Council Member Sullivan was the only council member to attend the reception and was recognized for his steadfast support. The HPOU has been a leader in remembering those officers killed and honoring their memory and their families during events like these.



Denise Shirley and family with Council Member Sullivan



Officers stand in formation during roll call at the memorial reception and candlelight vigil at the HPD memorial monument.

Wallisville Reservoir Tour



Council Member Sullivan and PWE Deputy Director Jun Chang

Council Member Sullivan toured the Wallisville Lake Project located in Chambers County on May 21st to see firsthand the importance of this area that serves in meeting the needs and demands for fresh water. The City of Houston is a partner in the project, which is sponsored and run by the Corps of Engineers. As Chair of the city's Water Resources Management Committee, Council Member Sullivan is always exploring how the city meets its obligation to provide safe water for our regional partners, as well as all Houstonians. Council Member Sullivan thanks PWE Deputy Director Jun Chang for scheduling the tour and accompanying him to explain the inner workings of the project. He also thanks Richard Long, Supv Natural Resources Manager for the Corps' Houston Project Office for hosting us at this facility.

Offshore Technology Conference Breakfast

For the second year in a row, Council Member Sullivan welcomed Offshore Technology Conference participants to Houston by attending and speaking at the kick off breakfast. The conference is held every year in Houston, and is one of the world's most identifiable conferences recognizing developments in offshore drilling.

The same week, conference participant Lord Provost Peter Stephen of the City of Aberdeen attended a City of Houston City Council session. During the meeting, Council Member Sullivan recognized Lord Provost and introduced him to his colleagues around the table.



Pictured to the right: Council Member Sullivan with Lord Provost Peter Stephen of the City of Aberdeen.

YWCA Interviews



ABC13's Gene Apodaca interviews Council Member Sullivan.

Council Member Sullivan interviewed with KTRK Channel 13, KPRC Channel 2 and KIAH Channel 39 last month when several Meals on Wheels drivers walked off the job at the YWCA in Southwest Houston. The drivers refused to continue working because they allegedly had not received a paycheck for weeks. The situation was brought to Council Member Sullivan's attention when many of the frustrated drivers contacted his office. The City of Houston helps fund the agency, and as a result, Council Member Sullivan asked City Controller Ron Green to conduct a performance audit on the city's contract with the YWCA.

Home Schooler's High School Graduation

Council Member Sullivan attended the home schooler's high school graduation ceremony last month. The service was held at Champion Forest Baptist Church and recognized 78 seniors from the Houston area. During the ceremony \$2.7 million worth of scholarships were presented to students who will be attending colleges around the nation. District E resident, Matthew Balciunas, was one of the many seniors who graduated.

Council Member Sullivan congratulates all the students and wishes them much success in the coming years. He supports school choice for families and has a long history of supporting various education initiatives.



*Rudy Balciunas, Matthew Balciunas
and Council Member Sullivan*

Upcoming Town Hall Meetings

Hurricane Preparedness	6/8/2010	University of Houston – Clear Lake	6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Flooding and Drainage	7/14/2010	San Jacinto College – South	6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Junk Waste

Council Member Sullivan would like to remind District E residents that the City of Houston's Solid Waste Department will pick up **Junk Waste** in June. Junk waste is defined as furniture, appliances and other bulky material. Resident's who receive City of Houston trash pick up service can legally put junk waste out at 6:00 pm the Friday before their designated pick up day.

For more information, please visit the Solid Waste Department's website at www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste.

New Email Address

Please note District E's new email address, districte@houstontx.gov.

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